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Dated: November 19, 2004 Signature:

Docket No.: IN01158K (PATENT)

: Group Art Unit: 1653

: Examiner: R. B. Mondesi

(S)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Saksena et al.

Application No.: 09/909,012

Filed: July 19, 2001

For: NOVEL PEPTIDES AS NS3-SERINE

PROTEASE INHIBITORS OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action mailed August 19, 2004, Applicants submit the following remarks.